farmers in different States confronted with natural calamities regularly; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the loan waiver ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister on 14th November, 2002 announced a comprehensive relief package. In accordance with which the Reserve Bank of India while reiterating its extant guidelines, has in addition, advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to extend the following additional relief to the farmers affected by drought, in the districts notified by the State Governments of the drought affected States :

(i) There will be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif crop loan.

(ii) The principal amount of crop loan will be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers.

(iii) Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan will not be recovered. No interest will be charged on this.

Linking of Mahanadi with southern rivers

*217. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Peninsular Grid linking Orissa's Mahanadi with major southern rivers was found technically feasible in a study by National Water Development Agency;

(b) whether this project if implemented, could go a long way in solving water scarcity problems of States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether this would save water of Mahanadi going waste and flowing into the sea; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up this project, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) to (d) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern-based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. The Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan envisages inter-linking of Mahanadi–Godavari–Krishna–Pennar–Cauvery–Vaigai. As per the water balance studies of various river basins of the peninsular Component conducted by National Water Development Agency, Mahanadi and Godavari river basins are surplus in water, whereas the river basins namely, Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery and Vaigai are deficit. It is, therefore, proposed to transfer the surplus water of Mahanadi which in turn will be receiving water from the Himalayan component and Godavari basins to Krishna basin by inter-linking Mahanadi to Godavari and Godavari to Krishna. The water, thus received in Krishna basin is proposed to be transferred to Pennar, Cauvery and Vaigai basins. NWDA has identified 9 links under this part of the Peninsular Component for preparation of feasibility report and has prepared feasibility reports for three links. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co-basin States agree to the water linkage proposal and provide other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of fund is ensured.

Vanishing companies

*218. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many new companies vanish from the market after their public issues;

(b) what steps are being taken to monitor such companies:

(c) whether it is also a fact that many investors are finding it difficult to trade/dispose off their shares; and

(d) the number of such companies which have not listed their shares in exchanges ?